

The California Indian Water Commission

The creation of the California Indian Water Commission was founded and based on the urgent call to address historical and current cultural, water, and land practices that have adversely impacted California Tribes and Tribal communities. Many case law, ordinances, and legislation have been placed to protect and preserve Tribal water rights nationwide, but those are not embraced nor acknowledged in the state of California. Water rights are critical and necessary for the integrated sustainability for our relatives; the winged, four legged and aquatic ones. Water and land management strategies are developed by multi-corporate and private contractors that do not include the Tribal cultural, economic, social or natural resource protection and conservation measures that identify our relationship with the delicate ecosystems. The California Indian Water Commission strives to build partnerships with Tribal, private, state, and federal agencies to provide sound applications and solutions to address natural resource issues. The inherent Trust responsibilities of the state and federal government regarding program awareness and funding availability to Tribes must always be transparent and only then can self-determination can become a reality.

The CIWC utilizes education to Tribal, private, local, state, and federal agencies of culturally appropriate training such as Tribal governance 101, traditional values regarding water, land use and habitat protection preservation and restoration methods. CIWC seeks equal protection and implementation of existing laws to benefit Tribes and Tribal communities for their respective culturally sensitive sites that have been and are currently being disturbed and destroyed for development. CIWC will continue to fight and lead in our mission not only out of respect for our People of the past, but for the untold generations of People yet to come. We want to provide a legacy of traditional ecological knowledge, long term vision, and the dedication to remain true stewards of the sacred water, land and habitat that are critical to our self- identification as Indians of California.